

SPORTS

The Detroit News Friday, November 6, 2009 | Section B



Rookie Daye gets a chance to contribute

PISTONS, 5B

Trying offseason awaits Tigers

With few trade chips, financial flexibility, it could be quiet winter

BY LYNN HENNING
The Detroit News

What a shame for the curious Tigers chroniclers that there are no transcripts from this week's team meetings at Comerica Park.

It would be easier to discern where a team is headed with regard to some select personnel questions:

- Will the Tigers sign any of their impending free agents: Placido Polanco, Fernando Rodney, Brandon Lyon and Adam Everett?
- Will they formally confirm

expectations they have no interest in either re-signing, or offering arbitration, to two more free agents: Aubrey Huff and Jarrod Washburn?

■ Are there any serious trade thoughts in mind as Dave Dombrowski, the Tigers president and general manager, huddles this week with manager Jim Leyland, coaches, scouts, and other front-office generals in plotting the team's 2009-10 off-season business?

"Everything's really being aligned right now," Dombrowski said Thursday, during a lunchtime break from the Tigers' summit meeting. "It's really just a process right now. You never can tell what will take place."

More online: Track Major League Baseball free agents, trades and other player movements at detnews.com/tigers.

Getz traded: G.P. South alum goes from White Sox to Royals, 8B

Nor was Dombrowski indicating that a GM known for acting quickly once the World Series has ended had any trade dialogue going. "Nothing hot and heavy," he said.

The Tigers have assorted decisions to make during an offseason that could, potentially, be more dramatic for the names they lose than the names they acquire.

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John T. Grellick/The Detroit News

Fernando Rodney had 37 saves in 38 chances in 2009, setting himself up for a big-money deal as a free agent this offseason.

Ex-Detroiters spout off again

It hasn't been a good week for ex-Detroit athletes **Allen** "It's not about me" **Iverson** and **Roy** "Give me the damn ball" **Williams**, who keep putting their foot in their mouth.

First, Iverson. The former Piston who complained about coming off the bench last year in Detroit is causing problems in Memphis with the same complaints.

"Nobody ever said anything about rebuilding," Iverson told the Commercial Appeal. "You know I wouldn't have come to a team, at 34 years old, that was in a rebuilding process. I'm trying to win a championship."

Then there is Williams. The Cowboys receiver said he is the Cowboys' No. 1 receiver, despite stats that indicate otherwise. He blamed it on quarterback **Tony Romo**, saying Romo throws better passes to the other receivers.

Romo shot back at Williams on Thursday and the receiver backed off — a little bit.

"I didn't complain," Williams said. "I didn't complain that I didn't get the ball. I got seven opportunities in (last Sunday's win over Seattle). All I said was that, when it comes to me, it's not there."



Williams

The gift that keeps on hitting

Allen Park

It was billed as "a land of opportunity" to prospective free agents last winter, which, of course, sounds a lot more enticing than the "Island of Misfit Toys."

It's not as if they were all spotted elephants and square-wheeled trains before Jim Schwartz & Co. got here.

But in remaking the Lions' roster, there were far more holes than there were suitable pegs — round, square, whatever. Particularly on a defense that allowed a whopping 517 points in 2008, second-most in NFL history.

Free agency offered some quick fixes — and those don't often work, as Lions fans know all too well. But Detroit wasn't exactly at the top of many wish lists, coming off an 0-16 season and another long, cold winter, with more in store.

So when Seattle put Julian Peterson on the trading block in

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Daniel Mears/The Detroit News

Julian Peterson, dragging down Adrian Peterson, is starting to pick up the pace for the Lions.

RED WINGS 2, SHARKS 1 (SO)

Hard work pays off in shootout victory



David Guralnick/The Detroit News

Henrik Zetterberg puts the puck past Sharks goalie Evgeni Nabokov in a shootout. Zetterberg also scored in the third period.

Zetterberg ties it in third period, then wins it to back Osgood

BY CHRIS MCCOSKY
The Detroit News

Detroit — Might as well get used to this. The way the Red Wings handled their business against a red-hot San Jose team Thursday, taking a hard-fought, 2-1 shootout win, is the way, the only way, they are going to have success this season.

"We're not going to win like we used to," coach Mike Babcock said. "We don't have that kind of team any more. With the group

we have right now, and the injuries we have, we have to grind out games like this. We have a veteran core here that understands that."

The Wings got shootout goals from Pavel Datsyuk and Henrik Zetterberg while Chris Osgood was stopping Dan Boyle and Ryane Clowe.

"We played smart tonight," said Osgood, who stopped 33 of 34 shots. "We didn't panic. We took care of the puck. We're getting

back to playing the way we're capable of playing."

The Wings, down 1-0 after two periods, tied it at 5:38 of the third thanks to some hard work by Darren Helm and Patrick Eaves. Helm won the puck behind the Sharks goal, drove it to the front of the net but was knocked off the puck before he could shoot. Eaves picked it up and fed

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David J. Phillip/Associated Press

Joe Girardi played Good Samaritan after winning his World Series trophy.

Girardi stops to aid motorist

Yankees manager **Joe Girardi** capped off a victorious evening by helping a car crash victim in suburban New York.

Police say Girardi pulled over to help after a woman lost control on a Westchester County parkway and crashed into a wall around 2:30 a.m. Thursday.

The woman had only cuts, and police arrived minutes later.

Contact us

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